

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 12-15 are amended, and new claims 16-18 are added. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 2 and 12-15 can be found at least in Fig. 3 and at the specification, for example, page 13, line 26 to page 16, line 3. Support for New claims 16-18 can be found at least in Fig. 3. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Scott et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,097,518, hereinafter "Scott") in view of Hamilton Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,297,217, hereinafter "Hamilton"). The Office Action also rejects claims 2 and 4-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Scott in view of Hamilton and Shyu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,825,367, hereinafter "Shyu"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1, 2 and 12-15, as amended, now recite that the "maximum capacity of the first memory [is] less than a memory capacity needed to store pixel image data of a full scanning line in a main scanning direction." Scott, Hamilton and Shyu do not disclose or suggest these features.

The Office Action asserts that the "memory addresses" in the "input image memory 1610" of Scott is equivalent to the first memory, as recited in independent claim, 1 and as similarly recited in independent claims 2 and 12-15. However, Scott discloses that the input image memory 1610 stores a complete bit map of the bi-tonal pixel values that form the source image. See col. 46, lines 25-32 of Scott. In other words, the maximum capacity of input image memory 1610 of Scott is the same as the number of bit of the source image in a horizontal (X) address direction. Therefore, the maximum capacity of input image memory 1610 of Scott is not less than the number of bit of the source image in the horizontal (X) address direction. Therefore, Scott does not disclose the claimed first memory, as recited in independent claims 1 and 2, and as similarly recited in independent claims 12-15.

Hamilton and Shyu do not make up for the above-noted deficiencies of Scott.

Hamilton and Shyu do not disclose a first memory that stores pixel value information input in raster scan order, a maximum capacity of the first memory being less than a memory capacity needed to store pixel image data of a full scanning line in a main scanning direction, as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claims 2 and 12-15.

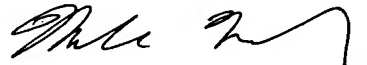
Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 2 and 12-15 define patentable subject matter. Claims 3-11 depend from independent claim 1 and 2, respectively, and therefore also define patentable subject matter for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Additionally, new claims 16-18 depend from independent claims 1, 12 and 14, respectively, and therefore also define patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

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